

Amendment to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at the top of page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 09/885,204, filed August 20, 2001. The present invention relates to isolating plating media enabling the presumptive identification of *Salmonella* bacteria, and to methods of differentiating *Salmonella* ~~Salmonella~~ bacteria from other bacteria in a plating medium.

Please replace the paragraph at the top of page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

The prior art includes Patent No. 4,279,995, dated July 21, 1981, to Woods et al. entitled "Selective *Salmonella* Carbohydrate and Medium Constructed Therefrom" which discloses a plating medium with 2-~~d~~Deoxy-D-~~r~~Ribose as a selective carbohydrate for *Salmonella* and a pH indicator dye to respond to carbohydrate metabolism. The media allows the growth of *Salmonella spp.*, *Arizona spp.* to the exclusion of other *Enterobacteriaceae* ~~Enterobacteriaceae~~, but it also permits the growth of *Citrobacter freundii*.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The 1981 Patent No. 4,279,995 of Woods and Wilkinson, supra, discloses the process of selectively differentiating *Salmonella spp.*, *Arizona spp.* and some of the *Citrobacter freundii* from other members of the *Enterobacteriaceae* by using a medium containing 2-~~d~~Deoxy-D-~~r~~Ribose as a carbohydrate source and monitoring the metabolic acid of the medium. This patent further teaches the use of inhibitors to reduce or eliminate response of the medium to *Citrobacter freundii* and other non-target bacteria, but inhibitors also tend to have an adverse

effect on the growth of target bacteria, particularly some strains of *Salmonella*. In accordance with the present invention, at least two chromogenic substrates are added to the differentiating medium to color colonies of non-target bacteria with essentially the same distinctive color, a color that contrasts with both the medium and the color produced by detection of the metabolic activity of *Salmonella* bacteria in the medium.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 4 and the top of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

There is also another advantage to incorporating multiple substrates in a plating media, and that is improved readability. Some substrates react more quickly to a particular enzyme than other substrates, and the fast acting substrates tend to wash out after a period of time making it more difficult to identify target cells against the background color of the medium. This is particularly true of a medium which also contains a carbohydrate and an indicator dye. By also incorporating a second substrate that produces the same color precipitate as the first substrate, but does so more slowly than the first substrate, the target colonies will maintain their color contrast with the background ~~color~~ color of the medium, and the target cells will be easier to read. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the plating media contains both 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoxyl- β -D-galactopyranoside (X-Gal) and 3-indoxyl- β -D-galactopyranoside (Y-Gal). Both substrates react to the galactosidase enzyme to produce blue-black colonies in the substrate, but the X-Gal substrate produces an immediate blue-black colony that then fades, and the Y-Gal substrate produces colonies of the same blue-black ~~color~~ colony but at a slower rate and with a more intense color. Hence, by incorporating both an X-Gal substrate and a Y-Gal substrate in the plating medium the presence of a target colony will be more distinct, even if the

medium also includes a carbohydrate and indicator dye which effect the color of the medium, as in the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph starting on the last line of page 4 and continuing on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Many of the bacteria that are found in mixed samples can be removed from the differentiation process by inhibitors without adversely effecting growth of *Salmonella* bacteria, particularly bacteria that are not ~~members~~ member of the *Enterobacteriaceae*. Accordingly, a preferred embodiment of plating medium according to the present invention contains inhibitors.

In Table 1 on page 7, under "Supplements", please replace the ingredient "2-Deoxy-D-Ribose" with the following amended ingredient:

2-dDeoxy-D-rRibose